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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

September 9, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution to commend members of the United States Armed Forces for their services to the United States in the liberation of Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 65. Concurrent resolution to commend the Third Infantry Division (Mechanized) of the United States Army for its role in the liberation of Iraq.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

MILITARY DEATH GRATUITY TAX REPEAL

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor today because let me first explain the posters on my left and right are the faces of young men and women who have died fighting for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, and also, Mr. Speaker, I hold up a photograph of a young man from Connecticut whose name is Tyler Jordan, 6 years old. He has the American flag folded under his arm, and he is looking at the casket of his father who died for freedom. Gunny Sergeant Phillip Jordan from Connecticut died for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I am on the floor today is that last year I introduced a bill that would repeal the tax on the death gratuity. The American military family receives when a loved one dies a small amount of money. It is \$6,000, and there is a tax on \$3,000 of the \$6,000. And last year we passed in a larger bill a repeal, and it was sent to the other body and they did nothing with it. This year again the House has passed the same language which was in H.R. 693, the Military Death Gratuity Tax Repeal, the bill I put in. It was put into a larger bill that went to the Senate, and they still have taken no action. Let me tell the Members what that means.

From September 11, 2001, to December 31, 2001, over 292 military were killed and their families paid a tax on the gift of their son or loved one fighting for freedom. That is absolutely horrible in my opinion, Mr. Speaker. And in the year 2002, 1,007 families had to pay a tax on the death of a loved one. Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that we, the House, have done our part and we have sent to the other body legislation to repeal this tax. It is unacceptable that any family in this country who has a loved one who has died for freedom would get a bill tax due from Uncle Sam. And, Mr. Speaker, I am

calling on the House leadership to bring up H.R. 693, bring it to the floor as a stand-alone bill, let us pass it and send it over to the other body, because if we will do that, Mr. Speaker, I will go on every radio show I can get on, every TV show I can get on, and ask that we not leave this October/November without passing this bill to eliminate the tax on the death gratuity. \$6,000 is not enough. We need to raise that, but there is one thing we can do, take off the tax.

Again I hold up the photograph of this young man, Tyler Jordan, who gave his father to this country, and why in the world should his family, in the year 2004, get a tax due bill from Uncle Sam? Is not giving the life of a loved one fighting for freedom enough?

So, again, Mr. Speaker, I ask the House leadership, both Republican and Democrat, to join me and bring to the floor H.R. 693. Let us repeal this death tax and send it over to the other body, and let us put pressure on them to get it to the President so that the other Phillip Jordans throughout this country will not have a mother or father saying I owe Uncle Sam tax on the gift of my loved one.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and I ask God in His loving way to hold in his arms those who have lost ones fighting for freedom, and I ask God to bless the American people, the House and Senate that we will do what is right. I ask God to give strength and wisdom to the President of the United States. And I ask God three times, please, God; please, God; please, God, continue to bless America.

WTO MINISTERIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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